

FEATURED ARTICLES

City scores well again in tobacco control

January 22, 2011

Smoking efforts earn A

Glendale is among only four cities in state to get the highest score for tobacco control.

January 13, 2010 | By Veronica Rocha

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“Getting this right now is kind of timely because the one area that we got the lower grade, the B, is one of the areas that’s in front of City Council for consideration,” he said. “And that is how to address exposure to secondhand smoke in multifamily housing.”

Recommend 0

Among the possible revisions to the ordinance would be a law separating smoking and nonsmoking units, Engel said.

“That would help us meet the goals of the American Lung Assn. to address exposure in multifamily housing,” he said.

Glendale prohibits smoking only in common areas within multifamily developments, which Engel said led to the city’s B rating in that category.

Burbank officials are also looking at tightening smoking rules for multifamily housing complexes, said Deputy City Manager Joy Forbes. But, she said, it has been a balancing act trying to be fair to smokers and nonsmokers.

Given all the city’s work to address the issue, the American Lung Assn.’s overall grade for Burbank was disheartening, Forbes said.

“When we got the rating last year, we were disappointed, and to see the rating hasn’t changed is a little bit disappointing,” she said.

Burbank officials are constantly reviewing the ordinance to ensure it’s up to date, said Greg Herrmann, the city’s interim Community Development director.

Still, the B grade was likely the result of some of Burbank falling behind in terms of smoking restrictions for public parking areas and common spaces in multifamily housing developments, he said.

“But I am happy with our ordinance and with what it has,” Herrmann said.

As for efforts to reduce tobacco sales across the board, Burbank and Glendale received an A.

Glendale and Burbank’s grades were based on the comprehensive ordinances that are on the books, said Dawn-Michelle Wilson, a spokeswoman for the American Lung Assn., not necessarily how well they are enforced.

Glendale enacted its fresh-air ordinance in November 2008, and has since issued 15 citations after a soft enforcement phase.

Burbank’s ordinance took effect in April 2007 with a six-month grace period. Since then, police have issued 1,363 smoking-related citations.

Los Angeles County got a C for overall tobacco control. The grade took into account a D rating in smoke-free outdoor air quality, an F for smoke-free housing and an A in reducing tobacco sales.

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